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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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3 December 1966

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***Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)**

North Vietnamese Military Developments: Initial pilot reports indicate that the airstrikes of 2 December on three major targets in the Hanoi area were successful.

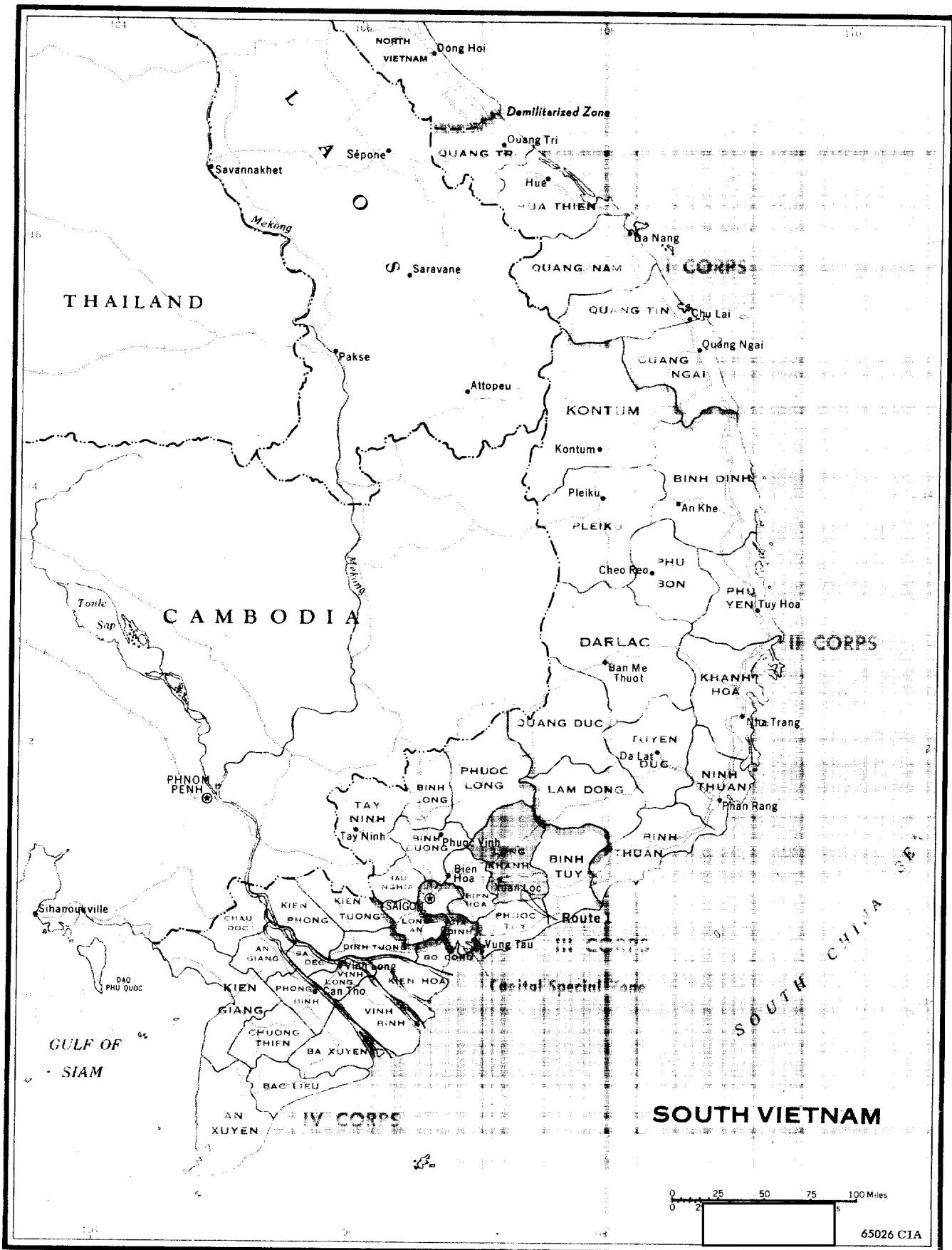
Two significant POL sites were hit at Ha Gia and Can Thon. The third target was an important truck storage and maintenance area within five miles of Hanoi proper. Two hundred US Navy and Air Force planes took part in the raids, and this saturation of the Hanoi air defenses may have helped to keep plane losses down to four. Pilots reported sighting more than 25 missile firings, heavy antiaircraft fire and an unknown number of MIGs.

Four additional US planes were reported down in other areas of North Vietnam on 2 December--two Navy A-4s in the Thanh Hoa area, an Air Force F-4C near Yen Bai, and a photoreconnaissance plane between Hanoi and Haiphong.

Hanoi and Peking radio reacted quickly to the 2 December strikes, claiming that 11 US aircraft were shot down and that the strikes had been directed against the populated areas of Hanoi. In this initial propaganda reaction, the Chinese called the raids a serious new escalation of the war but did not threaten any specific retaliatory action. (Map)

South Vietnamese Political Developments: The Constituent Assembly has started preliminary discussion regarding the system of government to be included in the forthcoming constitution.

A document favoring a straight presidential system has been presented to the assembly. Several deputies have suggested the inclusion of a prime minister in the future government to lessen the prospects for a return



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to the dictatorial situation which existed under Diem. The assembly decided to hold further discussions on the overall form of the government before voting on any one aspect.

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Heavy fighting was reported on 2 December between an estimated battalion-size Communist force and elements of the US 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment performing a routine reconnaissance patrol along Route 1 in Long Khanh Province about 45 miles northeast of Saigon.

With the assistance of allied artillery and air support, US forces killed nearly 90 Viet Cong during the four-hour engagement. American casualties were reported as light.

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Jordan: King Husayn faces a possible civil disobedience campaign in west Jordan, although public order has been restored there.

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The Palestinian leaders, however, regard the King's recent statements to the press as a studied effort to undermine their plans before the meeting. In these statements, Husayn reaffirmed his support for Prime Minister Tal and his opposition to both the Palestine Liberation Organization and further terrorist raids into Israel from Jordan.

Meanwhile, the USSR, which has been restrained in its reaction to the unrest in Jordan, has signed a \$1.7-million contract for a phase of work on the Khalid Dam project. This is the first contract ever concluded between the USSR and Jordan.

During the disturbances in west Jordan, Pravda alleged that Jordanian authorities were using the demonstrations as a pretext for repressive measures against leftists. Moscow has not echoed the virulent criticism of Husayn that has characterized Damascus and Cairo commentaries, however.

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Cyprus: New intercommunal incidents point up the difficulties facing the Greek and Turkish governments in their efforts to find a solution to the Cyprus problem.

Recent bombings and shootings, and new military construction by both Greek and Turkish Cypriots, have exacerbated feelings on the island. In north-west Cyprus in particular, Turkish Cypriot frustration over Greek Cypriot construction of new positions could result in a confrontation.

President Makarios' deal with the Czechs for arms to strengthen his police force may soon become another irritant as the equipment has begun to arrive.

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Although chances for a settlement still appear dim, the Greek and Turkish governments are eager to convey the impression that their dialogue has made progress. Makarios publicly supports a continuation of the talks, but is personally confident that nothing will come of them.

The UN peace force continues to exert a calming influence. Its mandate expires on 26 December, but favorable UN action to extend it is expected.

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Belgium-Congo (Kinshasa): Relations between Belgium and the Congo are improving.

The Mobutu government and Union Miniere have reached tentative agreement on a plan to set up a new company, of which half would be owned by the Congolese Government. It would control all of Union Miniere's assets in the Congo.

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[redacted]
there was considerable latent opposition to [redacted]
[redacted] a "polite state," and that the machinery to implement directives from the top did not yet exist.

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Nevertheless, [redacted] if the Congo can achieve two years of relative stability--something it has never achieved in the past--the Mobutu regime can make considerable progress toward the country's rehabilitation.
[redacted]

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India: New opposition is developing to Mrs. Gandhi's reappointment as prime minister after the February general elections.

Railways Minister S. K. Patil, a supporter of Mrs. Gandhi since last spring, told Ambassador Bowles on 30 November that he now intends to work actively against her continuance in office beyond February. Patil was angered by the prime minister's recent assignment of the important Home Ministry to Patil's arch-rival, Y. B. Chavan.

Former finance minister Morarji Desai, twice an unsuccessful candidate for the premiership, recently told a US Embassy official that he will renew his bid after the elections. Desai polled about 32 percent of the votes cast by the Congress party's parliamentary unit last January during his contest with Mrs. Gandhi to succeed the late prime minister Shastri.

Although the combined forces of Patil and Desai probably are not sufficient to topple Mrs. Gandhi, other important leaders have been antagonized in recent weeks by the inept political maneuvering of the prime minister and a coterie of her close advisers. Ambassador Bowles believes that some of these leaders are giving serious thought to ousting her, and he speculates that they could succeed.

A major roadblock, however, will be the problem of finding an acceptable replacement. Desai has many political enemies, including influential party president Kamaraj. Chavan, the only other prominent prospect, is in turn opposed by Patil, who appears capable of marshaling several other regional leaders against him.

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*Ecuador: Military action may be imminent in the confrontation between military leaders and the constituent assembly.

According to the press, the assembly late yesterday passed a resolution stripping members of the former junta of their rights as citizens--a move which could trigger the "countermeasures" present military leaders have threatened. The assembly spent three days in acrimonious debate of the punitive motion introduced by ex-president Carlos Arosemena, who was deposed by the junta in July 1963. At one point, a Communist youth leader recently trained in China subjected the assembly to an impassioned harangue, although he was not a delegate.

The delegate representing the armed forces attempted to rebut antimilitary invective by demonstrating that Carlos Arosemena's [] administration had brought the country to the brink of chaos. Frequently, he was shouted down by leftist delegates and observers in the galleries.

Military leaders have stated that actions by the assembly impugning the honor of the services would not be tolerated. Although they have insisted they are reluctant to resume governmental authority, they may consider yesterday's resolution sufficient cause to disperse the assembly and call for new elections.

If the military decides to move they could take full, undisguised control without any immediate difficulty. []

* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

NOTES

USSR: The Soviets made a small change in the orbit of their fourth Molniya communications satellite on 7 or 8 November. The correction, which increased the time required for the satellite to circle the earth, brings Molniya back over the USSR at the same time and along the same path every day. The original orbit resulted in a slow drift out of position on each revolution, gradually reducing the communications time between ground stations. The Soviets also changed the orbit of the first Molniya, but over-corrected slightly; the second and third were not in ideal orbits, but no corrections were made. 25X1

Canada - Communist China: With the failure of the Italian resolution at the UN, Canada feels there is no reason to delay recognition of Communist China.

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The Chinese denounced Canada's reference to a "two-China" resolution during the recent UN debate, and will certainly demand that Canada sever relations with Taipei. Ottawa has in the past rejected this, but may now feel the time has come to make the break.

Guatemala: The new 30-day state of siège decree placed in effect yesterday, unlike the expiring one, specifies Communist-oriented guerrillas as a primary target. The decree also warns that press organs publishing material furnished by rebel groups will be punished. During a meeting with student leaders on 29 November, Mendez told them that the government will now crack down on student elements involved in subversive activities. 25X1

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